

(110)

THUNDER-CLAP TO THE ARMY AND

Their friends, warning them of their imminent danger, and awaking them to a speedy prevention.

A I thought, as respecting and killing of your open incorrigible Enemies a little thing would have sufficed you, and to preserve your selves and friends from their violence, your constant watchfulness, valour, and painfull diligence, do all abundantly testify to your perpetual praise; that the least heat of Drum, or sound of Trumpet, instantly rouses you up to that kind of work, whereby through Gods blessing upon your endeavours, the late dismal sky looks clearing, the wind blowes even and kindly from the North, and ye have all the outward signes that may be, of faire and quiet weather.

Yet there is a danger awaiting for you, by your secret enemies, and seeming friends, (who ye know have ever done you most mischief) whereof ye appear to take no notice at all, that certainly there is need of Thunder from Heaven to awaken your understandings, and to make you so thoroughly and speedily sensible thereof, as the cause requireth.

Had ye been as watchfull towards the South and South-west, as ye have been all other wayes besides, ye might have long since perceived over *Westminster*, a little Cloud somewhat bigger then a mans hand, which is a vapour composed and made up of corrupt and sulphurous

maker, more still greater and greater; and as the number of Thunder is
advanced against the full gale of your Victories and success, and
threatning first or last to trye masteries with you.

And now to your friends sight, as *London* and other places to, the
clouds begin to be darkened, and the stormer of the blacke sea of
darknes approacheth; so that their heads are filled with care, and their
hearts with feare, flashes of hot and fiery Lightning, daring it selfe over
all the land, arising as from wards the *isle of wight*. Sometimes in the
shape of a bloody arme, other times like a grey gibett.

This they see, this their feare prompts them, and such a Thunder-
clapp of threats, Revenge, Murders, and Massacres continually ring
and rattle againe in their eares, even from those that intend to set those
horrid mischieves, which the plausible Stratagem of a *Personal Treaty*
must bring to passe, that yoe could not chule but heare (at least in part)
if your eares were not kept with distractions, or not charmed
into a dead sleep, with the witchcraft of politick sophistry.

In so much as it is a wonder above wonders, that ye should not heare
or that hearing, ye should not regard, or that regarding, yee should
not put forth that powerfull meanes, which God alone hath put and
preserved so miraculously in your hands, to help in a time of so great
danger and necessity as this is.

The secret enemies of all goodnesse, have long plotted and contrived
this wretched work of a *personal Treaty*, and both Lords and Com-
mons, as a demonstration of their totall corruption, apostacy and con-
fessy have stamp upon it, the *instability of a Parliament*; they have
proclaimed a Fast; and given orders to their Ministers to pray unto
God, to blasse this their abominable work; but contrary to their ex-
pectations, in their prayers they have publicly prayed against it; and all
sorts of people in their spirits cry aloud unto you for help against it,
but none as yet appeareth.

What, say they, is now become of the Army, will they suffer them-
selves and us to be thus at length cheated out of all the fruit of their
Victories? must they for fighting and we for paying, and otherwise
countenancing the most just cause that ever was stood for in *England*,
be now *reduced into bondage*, for all our unspeakable hazards, losses, and
dangers? Will no experience warn them from relying upon those that
were continually tempering with their most deadly enemy, with
those whose principles are so dective, sweaty, and forsworne any
thing.

Though

Though the Parliament in its present constitution be so corrupt as belottered as that they think they may better trust to any wicked sort of men for their safety and security, then to the affections of the people, (whom so many unheard-of wayes they have abused) yet it is not so with the Army, what then is or can be the reason they appear not in this extremity?

Fifteen months since, who were so for ward as the Army to appear unanimously against a danger of this nature? And did not God bless them in an extraordinary manner? What then is the cause that now withholdeth them? What is, nay what can be alledged against self preservation? Is it not intended by this *Treaty* to lay a foundation to enslave the Army of *St Charles*, (as their enemies call them) and to destroy both them and all their friends under the same nation?

And shall the Army and their friends suffer themselves, like naturall brute beasts, to be so overtaken and destroyed? What, was it *Goring*, *Buckingham*, *Holland*, *Prince Charles*, the *Scots*, the Malignant Citizens, desired, proposed or petitioned for, but a *personall Treaty*? The Army destroyeth these as enemies, and the Parliament looks on, and grants their desires: pray friends, on which side is the Parliament? All honest hearts ake, and even bleed to think on it.

Nothing now but sad and dismal discourses in all places, where honest men do meet together, one reckon up the frequent breach of faith and Oaths in *William* the first, and of all the Kings after him to *Richard* the second, especially of *King John*, and his Sonne *Henry* the third, and that never so great mischiefs befell, as after *Treaties*.

Another reckons up the mischiefs done by *Richard* the second, and the greatest ever after treaties and (seeming) reconciliations, and also tells how many were hanged in such and such a *Cooy*, and such and such a County, and how many lost their heads in such and such a place, and how many were tortured, and how many were starved to death in prisons, insomuch that there was no end of his treachery, till there was an end of his Sovereignty, and so forward throughout all the bloody perfidious and unhappy raiges of after *Kings*, who never so much prevailed against the people that opposed them, as by the deceitfull hautes of treaties and after plausible reconciliations.

Some hereupon cry out and say, let men therefore be wiser, and consider what they take in hand when they meddle with Kings and Counsellors; and if once they draw their Sword against them, let them throw away the Sabbers; and also they bid their friends remember the hor-

rible Massacre in *France*, where three years after the firmest union and reconciliation (in shew) that could be devised, so many thousands that had opposed the King, were all in one night murdered in their beds in *Paris*, and other places throughout all *France*.

Oh then they cry out, why is not the Army sensible of these things, that now, though they have a victorious Sword in their hands, yet have seen some of their Members and their best friends already put to death and otherwise punished, upon a pretence of Law for what they have done, even by authority of Parliament.

Oh say they, what can they expect after this *falshhearted treacherous Treaty*, but that they and their friends in all places, shall be drawn forth by fives, tens, twenties, fifties, and hundreds, and upon one pretence or other executed, or on a sudden under the notion of Hereticks, Schismatics, Sectaries, factious & seditious Persons, or troublers of the State, be murdered and massacred in their beds?

These and such like, are the stories and discourses that are frequently and abundantly talk on, with extrem grief and perplexity to all honest men; chiefly those who have adventured their lives, and bestowed their Estates in opposing tyranny and oppression in whomsoever, and for obtaining an equal and just Government, inasmuch, that they are even at their wits end, as fearing the imminent ruine, intended by this *personall Treachery*; for so it is indeed on both parts.

And at the period of their discourses, they still insist, why moves not the Army, was there ever so important a cause for them to appear in? Nay, they urge, that the silence of the Army is taken by the Parliament for consent and approbation; and may they not justly argue so, it having been so frequent with the Army within these twelve-months, to shew their like or dislike of the proceedings of the Parliament: so that if any mischief befall the Common-wealth by this Treaty, will it not lye heavy upon the present rulers of the Army in the first place, and on the rest also, if this precious opportunity be lost; for not to prevent having power, is in effect to approve: But far be it from any to imagine, that this Army or the Rulers thereof, can be guilty of so treacherous a connivance; or to suspect them of so much weaknesse, as now so *stumble at France*, having already leapt over so many blocks, for common safety and freedom.

Some would excuse the matter, saying, the chief Officers would willingly have the Treaty opposed, but that they are loath to appear first in that business themselves, but desiring rather (as they did the last year) that

that the private Souldiers should first be sensible thereof, and (as they then did) importune their Officers to undertake the work.

Others say, the private Souldiers are all prepared and fully sensible of the imminent danger they are in by this Treaty, and would gladly and readily appear in opposition, but that they would faine know the minds of their chief Officers, and are somewhat doubtfull, if they should fall again to adjuring (which they have had in mind) that it might give some discontent to their Officers, and therefore are desirous that their Officers would save them that trouble, and of themselves adjurat all those things that tend to the preservation of the Army and their friends.

And if it be thus, it is a sad and miserable case, that all which hath been gotten by the expence of so much blood and treasure in all these cruell and destructive Warres, should be so shamefully and suddenly lost by a pernicious and base Treaty, whilst the private Souldiers stand gazing upon their Officers, and the Officers and Commanders looking upon the private Souldiers, observing which of them shall first appear.

Certainly, it is high time this controversie, or rather Complement were at an end, this being no complementing businesse, all men concluding, that it will best become his Excellency, and then the generall Officers, with all the Officers and Commanders to be most forward in this so just, necessary, and urgent a work, to incite and encourage the private Souldiers therein, to give them a right understanding of the publick Cause, and also of the inevitable danger, not only of themselves, even from the highest to the lowest are in; but the whole Common-wealth, if now through their negligence (as God forbid) this personall Treachery should take effect, and so to lead them through this, as to their honour they have done, through the greatest dangers and difficulties.

And it is hoped they will, and that instantly, according to the extreame necessity upon this present occasion; nor is it in the least doubted, but the private Souldiers will upon all occasions, stirr up the affections and strengthen the resolutions of all their inferiour and superiour Officers courageously, to set themselves to this so needfull and important a work, and to go through with procuring (as the just price of their blood, and reward of their manifold sufferings) such a just, free, and equall constitution of Government in this Nation, as may Crown the end of all their worby endeavours with a happy issue, and produce a more safe and bet-

our grounded Peace, then is or can be expected by a *Personall Treaty*.

Did ye but heare the groanes of Parents, bemoaning the misery and slavery which their children are like to undergo by this Treaty, or the cut-cries of thousands of knowing people (who have ventured their lives and estates, as ye have done) being vexed in their very soules, to see the Parliament, (for whose safety they have thought nothing too precious) giving all away for a song, a dance, or Court-holy-water, thereby leaving them (in the sense of the Law) as traytors, rebels, theeves, and murderers, without so much as hope of any remedy, but by a base act of indemnity or Oblivion, obtained from their tyrannicall captive King.

Could you but hear the wofull cries of the innocent blood of the flaine, for justice against the open traytors and confederates in this *Personall Treaty*, valuing their blood but as filthy water, or if ye heard the exclamations of those who deeply consider what it is to be betrayd and made slaves by abused authority of Parliament, after all your former and latter victories, certainly when ye shall seriously consider all these in one, it can appear no lesse, *then a most dreadfull clap of thunder, warning you of the voice of God from heaven*, that now is the time for you to come forth, and help the Lord against those men, who are only mighty in contriving and doing of mischief.

And seeing the chief instruments therein, are such as your lenity have made, but to perfume and go on in mischief, and to add to all their wickednes, even this sin also of a *Personall Treaty*, purposely to ruin you and all that have adhered to you, Let them (in Gods name) cast off that bitter potion which they have most maliciously provided and intended for the innocent, and deliver the just out of the jaws and claws of these treacherous tyrants, and the blessings of God will be multiplied upon you and your posterity to all generations.

And yee O friends in all places, that pretend to love and honour this Army, what will become of you, if either this Treaty proceed, or any other kind of tyrannous & unjust Government should once be concluded, whether with or without the King? Will it not fall most heavy upon you? Why then seeme you to snort in sluggish slouth, and carelesse security, neither taking pains in Petitioning against corruptions and abominations and oppressions so soone as they appear, nor insist upon just, needfull and good things?

Why start you like broken and deceitfull bowes, only making a shew to put your hands to the plow and then instantly faint, look back and be not weary,

wearie of well-doing? why do ye not read and consider good, true & needfull informations for your own & others instructions, how to principell, and behave your selves in these deceitfull times? Why ride ye not, walk & take pains, as ye did formerly when ye had not such a worthy judicious & courageous Army, that (by such means) ye may beget a true understanding and sensibility of the approaching danger, both to the Army and all true hearted English-men every where.

Yee see dayly before your eyes, a guard of horses raised to attend the Parliament, made up of such as are inveterate enemies to you and the Army, purposely to terrify honest people from visiting the house with Petitions, informations and perswasions for good and just things, and upon the least word of notice or direction, had they opportunity, are ready to destroy you, even as the Kings Court of Guard at *Whitehall*, was erected and filled with Russians, to destroy the Apprentices and petitioners, immediately before these bloody Wars.

Ye hear and know of the creating of a Provest Marshall by the Parliament, (the perfect note of a new intended tyranny) and this new Officer is furnishing himself with fit instruments to surprize honest peaceable men, upon the least trip of their tongue, *as they shalbe forced or occasioned to speake against the intolerable oppressions, abominations and loud crying sinnes of this Parliament, and their treacherous Treaty.*

And how must these Courtly yeomen of the Guard be armed? neither with Halberds, nor Pikes, nor Muskets, or any such visible Armes, (representing the least appearance of just authority) that thereby men might be warned how or what they speake in their hearing, but (forsooth) with words and pocket Pistols, and cloaks to cover their treachery, like Pursevants if not Robbers and Cavaliers; that so, men (not knowing nor thinking of such a base kind of men, may be at unawares entrapt, seized on, sworn against, spoild and ruin'd.

But however they be armed, the Office is an illegall innovation & intrusion, & not justifiable nor agreeable with the just freedoms of the people, but proper only to Councils of war, and therefore altogether anti-Parliamentary, and as un-naturall to the constitution of the English nation, *As an eight years Parliament*: being indeed the naturall issue of such a tyranny, and sheweth they are conscious to themselves of so many abominable corruptions that they dare not trust themselves to any kind of just legall ordinary Guard.

Oh therefore awake thou that slumberest or sleepest, & stand up from the dead, and being awakened, think not much for a season to spare some time from your callings, to administer some kind of help every day, towards the delivering of the captive, and setting the oppressed free.

All your endeavours will seeme but small in your eyes, if ye rightly consider the pittifull danger yee your selves and all that are nearest and dearest to you are in, through the secret treachery where with ye are surrounded and circumvented, if not timely & powerfully prevented.

Be not so far blinded, as to think it shall go well with your private when oppression and tyranny shall overspread the publike, No, every corner both in City and Countrey will be sought and searcht for an honest face.

Your wives & innocent children will not be excused. think not, nor harbor such vain and idle thoughts; but rather for their sakes, for your own, for your cause sake, for the nations sake, yea for God and Christs sake, whose work it is; being a worke of mercy, justice, peace and freedom; Bestirre your selves, and never rest till yee have procured not a fained or counterfeite, but a firm, reall, safe and well-grounded peace to this distracted and enslaved Nation, and a certaine security of safety to all honest men.

And when ye omit to be thus timely, justly and needfully exercised; may your consciences be as a thousand witnesses, ratling like claps of thunder in every one of you; the dreadfull judgments of God against you, that ye may have no peace in your selves; but so farre as ye are conscientious, mindfull, and carefull in promoting the Common safety and freedom of the Nation.

Ff Njs.